

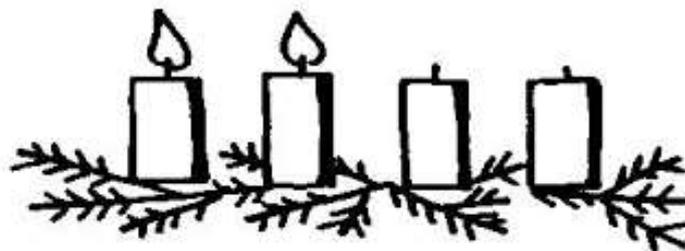
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MELBOURNE, SMISBY,
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE AND TICKNALL

THE BULLETIN

A weekly publication for the Benefice

Sunday 6th December 2020

Advent 2



Across the Benefice Today

- 10.30am **Parish Eucharist – Melbourne**
the Revd Steve Short
- 9.15am **Morning Prayer – Ticknall**
Dr Nick Gravestock
- 11.00am **Morning Prayer – Stanton-by-Bridge**
Canon David Edwards
- 5.30pm **Evening Prayer – Smisby**
the Revd Alan Winfield

From the Rector

A Roman Catholic priest-professor (Ed Foley) once said this in a lecture he was giving 'Jesus died because of the way he ate'.

What Fr Foley is describing in those words is the radical way that Jesus dined with sinners, the outcasts of society. It is what some theologians call 'radical table fellowship' acknowledging the all-encompassing invitation of inclusivity Jesus gave and gives – all are welcomed at his table; all are welcome to share in the feasting of the Kingdom. Put another way – Jesus was very good at parties and picnics.

For most of this year, we have been forced by the pandemic into a way of acting that is almost the complete opposite of what we, as Christians, would naturally do as we not only follow in the footsteps of Jesus but also try to extend his invitation. We would normally gather and then feast (the Eucharist). Every celebration of the Eucharist anticipates the party of heaven where gathering and feasting are positively encouraged and expected. What I am trying to say here is that, now a vaccine is on the horizon (and soon to be more, hopefully), it is time to start planning parties! We're not quite there yet in terms of actually holding them but we can begin to visualise a time when they will be possible.

My hope and prayer is that across all the communities of our benefice, the church can play its part in remembering and reflecting, yes, but also being proactive in helping stage gathering and feasting – whatever is appropriate to each church context. As ever, we have a gospel to proclaim which most definitely includes partying. So, in a very Advent way of waiting and expectation...Bring. It. On.... soon!

Advent Hope

Between 30 November 2020 and 24 December 2020, Bishop Libby invites us to join her each week for an hour of prayer and reflection based upon seasonal Bible passages and collects as together we look for the coming of Christ and the hope that gives us of his kingdom. Advent Hope is open to all and will be held on Mondays from 8am-9am and repeated on Thursday 8pm-9pm.

Please email halina.johnson@bishopofderby.org for the access link.

Advent Reading

Advent is a time for devotional reading and, amongst other favourite books, I will be reading new this year:

‘Into the Heart of Advent – Twenty-five conversations with Jesus’ by Penelope Wilcock, SPCK publishing

Re-reads are:

‘The Little Book of Advent’ compiled by Canon Arthur Howells, William Collins publishing.

‘A Shaking reality – daily reflections for advent’ by Bishop Peter Price, DLT publishing

Every blessing as we wait upon God this Advent, moving from darkness to light.

Compline

Each Wednesday of Advent at 9pm there will be a service of Compline in traditional language shown live on our Facebook page (‘Melbourne Parish Church’). Everyone is warmly invited to join together in these acts of worship – an opportunity to slow down and wait upon God.

These are the links for each Wednesday:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-traditional-wednesday-2-december-2020>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-traditional-wednesday-9-december-2020>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-traditional-wednesday-16-december-2020>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-traditional-wednesday-23-december-2020>

Every blessing, Steve

Community Development

The COVID - 19 pandemic has highlighted how closely we are connected to one another and the importance of community. As we move into 2021, I believe that it is time for us to review how we provide support, development and care to both our church members and the wider community.



I have asked a small team comprising: Alan Winfield, Andrew Baldwin, Linda Latchford, and Kit Emery to undertake a scoping study to review current support mechanisms and the needs of our community and then to present suggestions as to how we should develop new ways of providing community support. They will be talking to church members across the Benefice. If you would like to contribute to this study please contact Andrew Baldwin via: andrewbaldwin2012@gmail.com or via 07526 162305.

- Steve

Parish Safeguarding Officer

As a parish we are very grateful indeed to Ros Bell for all her many years of work as one of our safeguarding officers. Now that Ros has stood down from the role with our thanks, we are looking for someone to fill the vacant position. If you would like to explore this opportunity further, please speak to me, one of our wardens or to Nigel Coupe as our remaining parish safeguarding officer. - Steve

MU Pens

*Thanks to all who have supported the sale of MU pens. We have raised £55 for our MU charity funds and have now sold out.
Ros Bell*

News from Stanton

The congregation is delighted to be able to return to worship today. The service will be Morning Prayer conducted by Canon David Edwards, with his usual wit, devotion and humour. Sadly, no music today as the organist is recovering from Covid.

Prayer Pilgrims

Friends will be aware of the opportunity made for private prayer in Melbourne Parish Church during the COVID-19 crisis.

Following feedback, the Prayer Pilgrims Wednesday midweek slot has been moved to straddle the lunch break (12:30-14:00) so that people at work in the town (either from home or at their place of work) can take advantage of Covid safe peace in the church building for prayer and reflection.

As the church will be opening up on 6 December, Saturday sessions will not take place December onwards.

Please let your friends and neighbours know of this opportunity. No need to book, just turn up wearing a mask if you can.

If anybody else would like to join the volunteer team please contact Marcus Nolan on: (07966)545281 or by email : thewordsmith@gmail.com
Thanks,
Marcus Nolan



Online Advent Calendar

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the online Advent Calendar. This is available on our Facebook page each day during Advent. I will endeavour to post first thing each morning something from either a member of our Benefice congregations or an item from another source.

Many Thanks
Alan Winfield

Christmas Window Trail

Christmas in Melbourne is likely to be rather different this year with many of our village traditions unable to take place as normal. Churches Together in Melbourne wanted the children and families of Melbourne to have something to look forward to and so have organised the "Melbourne Christmas window trail".



The trail will run from 18th December until 1st January 2021 4pm-6pm daily. Windows in homes, shops and public buildings will be decorated to depict different Christmas carols. Children will be asked to guess the Carol. Trail maps will be available to download from the Melbourne Methodist Church website. Paper copies will be available in The Rectory porch, Church Square, DE73 8JH or from 15 Packhorse Road, DE73 8EG. Many thanks to everyone who is decorating their windows to support this new village event.

Flowers in church

Thank you to Margaret Murray-Leslie for kindly offering to coordinate the flower arranging team once we are able to go ahead as 'normal'. As well as volunteers already known to Margaret, she is keen to recruit new people who want to learn or others who wish to use their existing skills.

Margaret would be very pleased to hear too from anyone who is able to go to collect flowers for arranging. We all can be involved by donating to the flower fund. Certainly, in the past people have been generous in giving, particularly at festival times such as Easter or Christmas.

Please do contact Margaret on 01332 862921 if you need more information or can offer help. We look forward to the time when we can once again enjoy flowers in our beautiful church.

Linda Latchford, Churchwarden

An Invitation to Join Carols on the Doorstep

During the run up to Christmas many of us like to go to a Carol Service or Community Carol Singing event, this year we cannot do that but that does not have to stop us having a good sing with our neighbours and our community. On Sunday 20th December at 5:30pm the whole country has the chance to join in Carols on your Doorstep. All you need to do is have a radio at hand. That can be a DAB radio, Freeview on your TV (725) or the Premier Radio phone app. Premier Radio will play 3 or 4 carols for everyone to sing along to. A carol sheet will be posted through your door nearer the time.

This is a good chance to dust off that festive jumper or your most festive headwear if you like. It will be family-friendly so children welcome to bring something to shake or rattle along too.

At this challenging time for all of us let's try and bring a little joy to our community this Christmas. Why not dust off your favourite festive jumper or headwear too? More information can be found

at <https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep> or www.newcastledistrictmethodist.org



A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church we can pray together:

Monday: Those in great poverty or need.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Kate Landenberger, Bob Smith, Joan Tatam.

Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage. All who are suffering from Covid-19.

Wednesday: Our benefice and our diocese. For our bishop, Bishop Libby and our cathedral dean, Peter.

Thursday: Our schools as they continue their new academic year. The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

In our prayers this week, we remember those who have died recently and also those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Dennis Twells and Jack Tivey.

Bible Readings for Today

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first
coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily Hope

The Church of England continues to run a free phonenumber service of hymns, reflections and prayers. To access call: **0800 804 8044**

Contact Us

Rector: the Revd Steve Short (day off Monday) 01332 864741

Email: rector@melbourneparishchurch.co.uk

Churchwarden: Dr Terry Gilbert – 07852 974147

Churchwarden: Mrs Linda Latchford – 01332 862307

Assistant Curate: the Revd Alan Winfield – 07796 560814

Email: winfieldalan28@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Office: 01332 862153

Email: melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.melbourneparishchurch.co.uk

Facebook: Melbourne Parish Church or

<https://www.facebook.com/Melbourne-Parish-Church-Derbyshire-198938417583824/>

If there is anyone you know who would like to go on our prayer list or who would appreciate a phone call, do please contact Steve, one of the wardens or the parish office. Thank you.

Music suggestions

This week I repeat last week's Advent music suggestions as they include many of the items we would sing and hear at Melbourne during Advent and I hope that there is something for everyone to remind you of our usual marking of the Season. Many thanks to those who have been in touch – it's good to know that they are helpful. A second selection of Advent Music for you next week. Please stay in touch: 07808 474236 or simon.e.collins@btinternet.com

Hymns

O come, O come Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcllZpnZPgo>
Hark! a herald voice is calling <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQUEkBiPBvw>
Come thou long expected Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBGx_4PxO3g
Longing for light (Christ be our light) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04uIOM>
Hark the glad sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MwtRebflMA>
Lo he comes with clouds descending <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrzmHLiAsuQ>

Choral Music

Palestrina: Matin Responsory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R8EnwW4nVg>
Malcolm Archer: Creator of the stars of night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KziVeobdPHs>
arr. Martin Shaw: People look east https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Duo1Hu1_pZE
Paul Manz: E'en so Lord Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt_VfmasZDY
Herbert Howells: A spotless rose <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STSq2u6vkql>
Andrew Carter: Mary's Magnificat <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI3Gx77fIQE>

Organ Music

Bach: Wachet auf (BWV645) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhYPBRedFnI>
Andrew Carter: Toccata on Veni Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1Pu-irMyOA>
Buxtehude: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiejP5Y-ZWw>
Bach: Herr Christ, der einzig Gottes Sohn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzeENeo5W8w>
Kenneth Leighton: Fantasy on Helmsley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSpDSYXNfek>

I look forward to seeing you soon.

With very best wishes,

Simon Collins

Director of Music

**Please take this bulletin home with you to
minimise any risk of transmission.**

Children's Corner!

Prepare the way of the Lord!



"Prepare the way
of the LORD."

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Unjumble the words above and use the numbers to find the missing word from John's message

We are all getting ready for the
of
at



oming
hrist
hristmas



Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Charles Wesley

